

Fast Facts about Goats

GOATS, 101

Baby goats (kids) stand and take their first steps within minutes of being born and goats have about the same lifespan as a dog.

Goats are actually picky eaters! They have sensitive lips, which they use to “mouth” things in search of clean and tasty food.

Goats don't have teeth in their upper jaw. Instead, they just have a strong dental pad. Their mobile upper lip helps them to sort through spiny, thorny twigs to find plants' tender leaves.

Goats, being mountain animals, are very good at climbing; they've been known to climb to the tops of trees, or even dams.

GOATS AND PEOPLE

Goats were one of the first animals to be tamed by humans - 9,000 years ago! They were brought over on the Mayflower.

Goats can be taught their name and to come when called.

Some folks credit goats with the discovery of coffee. Legend has it a farmer noticed his goats growing hyper and sleepless after eating a certain type of berry – coffee!

PLEASE DON'T FEED - ANYTHING

These goats are here to do a job – eat weeds! It's the food they love and it's good for them. Other foods can make them sick – or worse. **So, don't feed the goats.**

WHY ARE THEY HERE AT THE EMERSON?

This herd of goats from **Green Goat in Rhinebeck, NY**, is here to help us control the spread of invasive plants which are proliferating on our streamside. They will move along to another location in mid-October.

FROM A GOAT'S POINT OF VIEW

Want to get on a goat's good side? Start with smiling! Goats are able to differentiate between happy and unhappy human faces. And they have been found to prefer happy faces!

Goats see purples, blues, and greens best! They can also see oranges and yellows, but not reds and greens.

Goat's pupils are rectangular, like many hooved animals, and this gives them a much wider field of vision than people enjoy.

THE INNER GOAT

Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions.

Goats are able to distinguish between positive and negative emotions in another goat's calls and react to their fellows' feelings.

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH

Please do NOT touch these goats! One of their favorite foods is POISON IVY. It doesn't affect them at all, but their coats and faces carry the oil so please **don't touch**.

AND THIS...

Goats BURP! This is due to the role of their rumen. The rumen, which in a mature goat holds four to five gallons of plant material, breaks down cellulose and acts as a fermentation vat. Of course, fermentation produces gas, and this gas escapes in the form of loud, healthy burps.

